

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Martin Sells and the Kingsport Christian High School baseball team on winning the Tennessee Athletic Association of Christian Schools Class AA State Tournament.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should recognize and honor those outstanding athletic teams that work hard, demonstrate extraordinary diligence and determination, and excel; and

WHEREAS, the great Kingsport Christian High School Boys' baseball team has shown a high level of proficiency, and in doing so has won the Tennessee Athletic Association of Christian Schools Class AA State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in the opening game of the tournament, the Lions soundly defeated Knoxville Baptist 9-5, with clutch hitting by **Frankie Sells, Matt Miller** and **Scott Rainey**, and outstanding pitching from **Billy Sells**; and

WHEREAS, in the championship game, probably the most exciting game ever played in the tournament, Kingsport defeated Metropolitan 8-2. Sophomore **Andrew Weatherford** pitched a three hitter, with clutch hitting by **Ronnie Sells and Ryan Davis**, and consistent defensive efforts from **Nathan Livesay, Josh Cone**, and **Lee Salyers**; and

WHEREAS, this was the first time in the history of the school that they have won the championship; and

WHEREAS, it is interesting to note that Kingsport Christian, an exemplary ministry of Kingsport Baptist Temple, is celebrating more than a quarter of a century of service to its community, having been opened in 1969; and

WHEREAS, senior **Billy Sells** was voted the tournament Most Valuable Player, with teammates **Nathan Livesay** and **Ronnie Sells** making the All State Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, the Lions' superb 16-1 overall record represents an enviable winning percentage of .941; and

WHEREAS, **Coach Martin Sells** and his **Assistant Coach Leonard Salyers** have done an excellent job; and

WHEREAS, the other members of the team included: sophomores **Matt Bailey**, **Michael Broyles**, **Brad Farmer** and **Clinton Thacker**; freshman **Brandon Osborne**; and eighth grader **Matt Grimes**; and

WHEREAS, the school motto, found in Proverbs 30:30, is "A lion which is strongest among the beasts and turneth not away for any". This certainly was true of the Lions team this season, which faced strong opponents and was not deterred from their goal of winning the state title; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize and honor this great team on its many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Martin Sells and the Kingsport Christian High School boys' baseball team on winning the Tennessee Athletic Association of Christian Schools Class AA State Tournament and wish them continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.